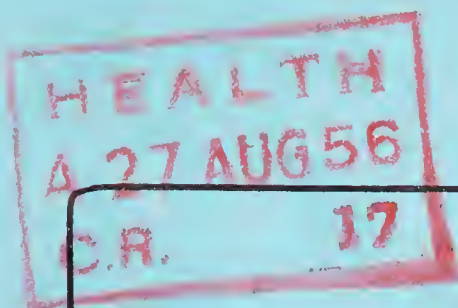


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Borough of Bury St. Edmunds

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health  
1955.

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BURY ST. EDMUNDS

F. G. PAWSEY AND CO., LTD., HATTER STREET,  
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THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR,  
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

MR. MAYOR, MRS. BATES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Service for the year 1955.

The adjusted birth and death rates for Bury St. Edmunds compare favourably with those for England and Wales as a whole, and it is gratifying to report that the crude death rate for Bury St. Edmunds was lower than ever before in the 75 years for which records are available. The death rate, when corrected for comparability, was also the lowest ever recorded in the Borough.

An extensive epidemic of measles caused a large increase in the total number of cases of infectious diseases which were notified during the year.

The Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board conducted a second public X-ray survey at Bury St. Edmunds. The number of cases of tuberculosis discovered per 1,000 persons examined was even lower than the case rate at the previous visit of the Mass X-ray Unit in 1951.

The investigation of a single case of typhoid fever, and of a serious outbreak of gastro-enteritis amongst babies, showed most clearly that the staff of your Public Health Department do not work alone in their campaign against the spread of infection. These occurrences provided notable examples of the team work which is so necessary for the effective control of infectious diseases. The generous assistance which was received in these investigations from the many authorities and individuals concerned is most gratefully acknowledged.

Detailed figures from the 1951 Census, which were made available during the year, have revealed a disturbing lack of amenities in some of our homes. A survey of sub-standard houses has also shown that many of these properties cannot be rendered fit for human habitation at reasonable cost, but by resolving to embark upon an energetic slum clearance programme, which is already well under way, the Council has made an extremely important contribution towards raising the standard of the public health.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. E. H. Box your Senior Sanitary Inspector for his loyal support at all times and for his help in the compilation of this report.

Finally I wish to record my gratitude for the continued interest and encouragement of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. COGGIN BROWN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



# Public Health Officers of the Authority

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*MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH*

P. Coggin Brown, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR*

E. H. Box, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

*ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR*

F. Holmes, M.S.I.A.

*CLERK*

Miss A. Wright.



## VITAL STATISTICS.

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS, which follow in the sequence of this report, relate to the corresponding figures for 1954.

POPULATION: Registrar General's Estimate for 1955	20,110	(20,300)
Census April, 1951	.. .. .	20,045
Rateable Value	.. .. .	£145,131
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (Est.)		£576
Area	.. .. .	3,623 acres

BIRTHS :—The birth rates for Bury St. Edmunds and for England and Wales declined during the year, but when corrected for the age and sex distribution of the population, the rate for Bury St. Edmunds remained appreciably above that for the country as a whole. The number of illegitimate births was the same as in the previous year, but the stillbirths decreased from 11 to 5.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	Male.	Female.
Legitimate ..	291 (302)	153 (149)	138 (153)
Illegitimate ..	19 (19)	7 (6)	12 (13)

Birth rate per 1,000 of population	.. ..	15.4 (15.8)
„ „ corrected for comparability	.. ..	16.0 (16.4)
„ „ per 1,000 of population England and Wales	.. ..	15.0 (15.2)

STILLBIRTHS	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate ..	4 (11)	— (2)	4 (9)
Illegitimate ..	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		15.9	(33.1)
„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „		England and Wales	23.1 (23.5)

DEATHS :—For the third consecutive year there was an appreciable decline in the death rate for Bury St. Edmunds. The figure for 1955, when corrected for comparability, was markedly below that for England and Wales, lower than that for the County of West Suffolk and the lowest ever recorded in this Borough.

Fewer deaths occurred from cancer than in the previous year, but there were more from respiratory and heart diseases. No death occurred from maternal causes.

DEATHS :—	Total.	Male	Female
	211 (228)	103 (112)	108 (116)
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population	..	10.5	(11.2)
Death Rate per 1,000 of population corrected for comparability	..	..	9.2 (9.9)
Death Rate per 1,000 of population England and Wales..	..	..	11.7 (11.3)

INFANT MORTALITY :—The total number of deaths of infants under one year of age increased from 4 in the previous year to 7 in the year under review. It is to be expected that the infant mortality rate will show considerable variation from year to year because the figure is based upon a relatively small number of births.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

	Total	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	7 (4)	3 (3)	4 (1)
Illegitimate	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	22.6 (12.5)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births England and Wales	..	..	24.9 (25.4)

Congenital malformations, gastro-enteritis and epilepsy were the main causes of the infant deaths, 2 of which occurred in the first month of life.

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1955  
IN BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

					Registrar General's Figures.			
					M.		F.	
ALL CAUSES	....	....	....	....	103	(112)	108	(116)
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	....	....	3	( 1)	—	( —)
2	Tuberculosis, other	....	....	....	—	( —)	—	( —)
3	Syphilitic disease	....	....	....	—	( —)	—	( —)
4	Diphtheria	....	....	....	—	( —)	—	( —)
5	Whooping Cough	....	....	....	—	( —)	—	( —)
6	Meningococcal infections	....	....	....	—	( —)	—	( —)
7	Acute poliomyelitis	....	....	....	—	( —)	—	( —)
8	Measles	....	....	....	—	( —)	—	( —)
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases				—	( 1)	—	( —)
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	....			5	( —)	1	( 2)
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				1	( 4)	—	( 2)
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	....			—	( —)	1	( 3)
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	....			—	( —)	—	( 2)
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				5	(13)	6	(10)
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	....		—	( 2)	—	( —)
16	Diabetes	....	....	....	—	( —)	—	( 2)
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system				9	(22)	24	(31)
18	Coronary disease, angina	....	....		25	(15)	16	(13)
19	Hypertension with heart disease	....			—	( 3)	2	( 2)
20	Other heart disease	....	....	....	14	( 8)	26	(23)
21	Other circulatory disease	....	....		9	( 6)	4	( 6)
22	Influenza	....	....	....	2	( —)	—	( —)
23	Pneumonia	....	....	....	4	( 1)	12	( 3)
24	Bronchitis	....	....	....	8	( 4)	—	( 2)
25	Other diseases of respiratory system				1	( 1)	—	( —)
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....			1	( 2)	1	( —)
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....			1	( 1)	2	( —)
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	....	....		3	( 1)	—	( —)
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	....		—	( 2)	—	( —)
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....			—	( —)	—	( 1)
31	Congenital malformations	....	....		2	( 2)	3	( 1)
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				10	(11)	5	( 7)
33	Motor vehicle accidents	....	....		—	( 5)	—	( 2)
34	All other accidents	....	....	....	—	( 4)	4	( 2)
35	Suicide	....	....	....	—	( 3)	1	( 2)
36	Homicide and operations of war	....			—	( —)	—	( —)



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**MEASLES** :—During the summer months there was an extensive epidemic of measles. 462 cases were reported in the Borough, but no death was caused by this disease.

**WHOOPING COUGH** :—There were appreciably fewer cases of whooping cough than in the previous year.

**SCARLET FEVER** :—Fifteen cases of scarlet fever occurred, but the disease was generally very mild in character.

**TUBERCULOSIS** :—Eight new cases of tuberculosis were reported and 3 deaths occurred from this disease.

**DIPHTHERIA** :—Once again no case of diphtheria was reported in Bury St. Edmunds. It must be emphasised, however, that the continuance of this state of affairs is dependent upon the maintenance of a high level of immunity amongst the child population. Immunisation is free of charge and parents should make sure that their young children are protected against this deadly disease.

**POLIOMYELITIS** :—One case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis was reported. The patient made a complete recovery.

**FOOD POISONING** :—The six cases of food poisoning which were reported during the year occurred in 2 separate family outbreaks. Careful investigation did not reveal the precise cause of either of these outbreaks but in both the suspected food was cooked meat. In one instance bacteriological examination of samples of cooked luncheon meat taken from the home of a patient and from the shop at which it was sold, revealed profuse growths of *Staphylococcus albus*, but this bacterial contamination was not considered to be the cause of the outbreak. Swabs were taken from a bacon slicing machine, from various utensils used in the shop, and from the fingers of the shop assistants, but no harmful organisms were discovered.

The patients and the food traders concerned were most helpful throughout these investigations.

**INFECTIVE HEPATITIS** :—Forty-two cases of infective hepatitis were reported during the year. Although this figure is much lower than that for 1954 it was considerably above the average for the previous ten years.

In the Annual Report for 1954 the occurrence of 74 cases of infective hepatitis was recorded, and a description was given of the gradual spread of the disease from one residential area of the town to others. In the last few months of 1954 most of the cases were reported from the area of the Mildenhall Road Estate, and it was at this Estate where more than half of the cases occurred in 1955. In view of the fact that over 60% of the patients were children of school age it is not surprising that a large number of cases occurred at the Council's housing estates where a high proportion of the tenants are the parents of school children.

Generally the disease was mild in character, the predominant symptoms being nausea, lassitude and vomiting followed by the appearance of jaundice.

It is necessary to stress once again that this disease may be spread by the alimentary as well as the respiratory route through close personal contact, and, therefore, the adoption of the highest standard of personal hygiene is a common sense precaution.

**GASTRO-ENTERITIS :—**An outbreak of gastro-enteritis occurred amongst the babies in the maternity ward at the West Suffolk General Hospital. The necessary investigations and the adoption of precautionary measures were directed by the Hospital Control of Infection Committee upon which your Medical Officer of Health served.

The disease was extremely severe in character and in spite of expert treatment and a very high standard of nursing care 6 of the infected babies died. The causative organism *Bact. coli*, type 0.128, was identified at an early stage of the investigation. In order to control the outbreak it was necessary to close the maternity ward completely for 2 weeks and then reopen the ward gradually by restricting admissions at first to urgent cases. The investigation required a great deal of work by the Hospital Authorities and by the Public Health Laboratory Service. Valuable assistance was also given by the General Medical Practitioners and by the Medical and Nursing Staff of the West Suffolk County Council.

In the past much has been said of the need for co-operation within the National Health Service, and of the difficulties which have arisen from the separate administration of the three main sections of the service. The co-operation which exists in this locality was put to the test by the occurrence of this outbreak, the investigation and control of which required team work of the highest order from many different agencies and showed most clearly that there is an abundance of good will on all sides in time of emergency.

**TYPHOID FEVER :—**A single case of typhoid fever occurred during the year. Mainly due to improved sanitation, and to the extension of pure water supplies, this disease has become much less common than it used to be many years ago.

Examination of the Infectious Diseases Register for Bury St. Edmunds shows that 24 cases of enteric fever (typhoid and paratyphoid fevers) were notified during the past 36 years for which reliable records are available, but until the notification of one case in 1955 none had been reported since 1946.

The occurrence of even a single case of typhoid fever calls for a thorough investigation to endeavour to discover the source and to prevent the spread of infection.

In this instance the number of possible contacts was high because the patient was nursed in a ward of a General Hospital for 3 days before the diagnosis was established, and his removal to the Isolation Hospital arranged. The fact that no secondary cases occurred amongst the staff or patients speaks well of the nursing technique at the General Hospital.

After the examination of specimens from the close personal contacts had proved negative and because the patient's work exposed him to indirect contact with a very large number of people it was thought more likely that he might have acquired the infection through indirect contact with a carrier at his place of work. In an attempt to limit the extent of the investigation bulk specimens were obtained by using sewer swabs at the place of employment and at the home, but the results were negative and therefore it was necessary to submit 893 individual specimens for bacteriological examination.

The invaluable assistance of the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge and the advice of the Director, Dr. R. M. Fry, which was given so willingly throughout the enquiry are most gratefully acknowledged. Much help was received also from the staff of the hospital and from the employers of the patient and the family contacts.

Although this extensive investigation failed to reveal the source of the infection, it is gratifying to report that the patient made a good recovery and that no further cases developed.



MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIVE HEPATITIS, 1955.

By Wards

Ward	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Northgate	3	2	5	1	2	3	1	3	1	—	3	1	25
Risbygate	1	—	—	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	7
Southgate	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	4
All other Wards	—	—	2	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Totals .....	4	2	7	3	5	7	3	6	1	—	3	1	42



AGE AND SEX INCIDENCE OF INFECTIVE HEPATITIS, 1955.

Age in years .....	0-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Age not recorded	Totals
Male .....	1	—	12	6	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	24
Female .....	1	3	6	2	1	1	3	1	—	—	—	18
Totals .....	2	3	18	8	2	2	4	3	—	—	—	42
Total per cent .....	4.8%	7.2%	42.9%	19.0%	4.8%	4.8%	9.5%	7.2%	—	—	—	
			61.9%									

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES  
(other than tuberculosis).

DISEASE	—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—25	25—35	35—45	45—65	65+	Not re-corded	All Ages
Measles ..	8	24	43	60	54	262	7	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	462
Infective Hepatitis ..	—	—	—	2	3	18	8	2	6	3	—	—	—	—	42
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	3	1	1	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	6
Whooping Cough ..	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Acute Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomylitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Measles	2	—	—	4	3	162	231	59	1	—	—	—	462
Scarlet Fever ..	3	6	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	15
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	5
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	4	2	7	3	5	7	3	6	1	—	3	1	42

# TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
1	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
5	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
10	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
15	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
20	—	(—)	1	(—)	1	(—)	—	(—)
25	—	(1)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
35	1	(3)	—	(—)	1	(—)	—	(—)
45	—	(1)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
55	1	(1)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
65 and over	—	(2)	—	(—)	1	(—)	—	(—)
Age unknown	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)	—	(—)
Totals	2 (9)	4 (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	3 (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)



## MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

Early in the year the Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board conducted a second public X-ray survey at Bury St. Edmunds.

Accommodation for the Unit was provided at the West Suffolk General Hospital, and valuable help was received from the Press and from many voluntary societies in giving publicity to the survey.

6,470 persons presented themselves for chest X-ray examination. This was considered to be a good response although it was slightly below the attendance of 6,871 persons which was recorded at the survey in 1951.

Various non-tubercular conditions were detected but the number of cases of tuberculosis was very low. The rates, both for tubercular and non-tubercular conditions per thousand persons examined, were much lower than those of the previous X-ray survey. At first sight this would appear to be an encouraging state of affairs, but the improvement in the case rates can be discounted to a considerable degree because only 57 per cent of the persons examined in 1955 were attending for their first miniature X-ray.

Regular chest X-ray examination is a powerful aid to the promotion of the public health but if we could secure the attendance of a higher proportion of those who have never been X-rayed, particularly of those aged between 15 and 35 years, we would be providing an even more valuable service to the individual and to the community as a whole.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**SEWAGE DISPOSAL :—**The unsatisfactory arrangements for the disposal of sewage from Bury St. Edmunds are well known to the Council. This has been the subject of comment in many previous annual reports but it is still necessary to stress that very grave concern is felt at the increasing quantities of sewage which have to be dealt with at the farm.

Another year has passed and there is still no progress to report regarding the construction of a new sewage works and main outfall sewer, but at the time of writing a date has been fixed for a public enquiry into the Council's proposals for carrying out these works.

*The following is the report of the Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer :—*

#### WATER —GENERAL.

I am pleased to report that an adequate and wholesome water supply has been maintained throughout the year.

Fortnightly samples of water drawn from the wells have maintained their usual very high standard of bacterial purity, and all chemical analyses have also proved satisfactory.

A careful check is made of the distribution system and each week two samples are taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Ipswich.

Old defective water mains have been replaced in the following roads in accordance with the Council's agreed programme :—

Orchard Street ..	..	..	..	107	lin. yds
Well Street ..	..	..	..	183	„ „
High Baxter Street ..	..	..	..	187	„ „
Garland Street ..	..	..	..	288	„ „

#### REFUSE—DISPOSAL

Arrangements for the disposal of refuse continue to be difficult. During the post-war years the amount of refuse within the Borough has increased very considerably, with the result that the present refuse destructor on the Eastern Electricity Board's property adjoining the Playfield is now inadequate and cannot cope with all the refuse collected. The balance has to be disposed of by controlled tipping and the efficiency of this method is governed by the amount of suitable soil for covering purposes of which there is not always too plentiful a supply near the tips.

Arrangements have been made during the year for the tipping of refuse on a site off Mount Road, just within the Borough boundary. Tipping operations have commenced here and the tipping of refuse on the Haberden has now ceased, although clinkers from the destructor are still deposited there.

#### SEWERAGE.

Conditions at West Stow Sewage Farm are still the cause of serious concern. Superficially the farm is maintained in a good and neat condition and the tanks are frequently emptied and cleaned, but nevertheless the area and condition of land available is inadequate for present day flows.

The usual programme of dragging certain main soil sewers and surface water drains has been carried out.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

During the year the construction of public conveniences for both sexes together with washing facilities, was completed in the

Abbey Gardens and access is afforded both from the Abbey Gardens and Angel Hill.

Facilities have also been provided for the supply of hot water to lavatory basins in the Gentlemen's conveniences at The Traverse.

SWIMMING POOL :—With the provision of the new chlorination plant the standard of purity of water in the swimming pool has considerably improved.

The method of break point chlorination is now in use together with soda ash treatment to adjust the pH value of the water.

A start has also been made in the reconstruction of certain cubicles to provide for better changing facilities together with the issue of clothes baskets to bathers.

### CENSUS 1951.

The County Report for Suffolk on the 1951 Census, which was received in 1955, contained some remarkable figures relating to the lack of amenities in the homes of the people of Bury St. Edmunds and elsewhere.

The percentage of households **lacking** exclusive use of certain amenities was as follows :—

	<i>Bury St. Edmunds</i>	<i>West Suffolk (Boroughs &amp; Urban Districts only)</i>	<i>England &amp; Wales</i>
Piped Water ..	23%	22%	17%
Kitchen Sink ..	19%	17%	13%
W.C. ..	14%	12%	20%
Cooking Stove	4%	4%	7%
Fixed Bath ..	53%	55%	45%

In most of these particulars the figures for Bury St. Edmunds do not compare favourably with those for the country as a whole, or with the Boroughs and Urban Districts of West Suffolk.

The Public Health Committee has been striving for years to encourage the observance of the fundamental rules of personal hygiene. The importance of hygiene is still being stressed by your staff whenever the opportunity arises in their daily contacts with the public, and by lectures, exhibitions and the display of posters, films and film strips.

It is notoriously difficult to assess the results of this work, but regrettably it is only too clear that progress has been slow. This is not surprising when it is realised that in 1951 in Bury St. Edmunds 1 household in every 7 had to share a water closet or use some make-shift such as a pail closet, almost 1 home in every 5 had no kitchen sink, 1 in every 4 had to share a tap and less than half our homes



were fitted with a bath. To teach hygiene to people whose homes lack the basic necessities of clean and healthy living is a very hard task indeed. However since 1951 strenuous efforts have been made to remedy this appalling state of affairs and it is known that by September 1955 a further 727 houses had been connected to a piped water supply and 669 to the sewerage system. In addition 34 houses which had no piped water, including 12 which had shared water closets, were demolished or closed between 1951 and the end of the year under review.

Although progress towards higher standards of personal hygiene has been slow, your officers are not downhearted. We shall continue to press for the installation of the necessary amenities in the homes of the people and do all we can to encourage their proper use. Now that a start has been made upon an extensive slum clearance programme the outlook for the future appears more promising.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**SLAUGHTERHOUSES :—**The 3 slaughterhouses continued to operate throughout the year, and, although it is well known that these premises fall far short of modern requirements, efforts were made to maintain as high a standard of hygiene as was practicable under the circumstances.

**MEAT INSPECTION :—**In the annual report for 1954 reference was made to the increasing difficulty of ensuring the post mortem examination of every animal killed for human consumption. In the year under review, in spite of a further substantial increase to a new record figure of 14,298 animals killed, your Sanitary Inspectors have managed to maintain this high standard, but it has required long periods of duty at the slaughterhouses and much of this time was not within the normal working hours. The increasing burden of meat inspection is shown by the figures recorded below of the total number of animals killed each year. It is worthy of note that this figure has more than doubled since 1949.

Year.				Total number of animals killed for human consumption
1949	..	..	..	6,592
1950	..	..	..	7,357
1951	..	..	..	8,495
1952	..	..	..	11,641
1953	..	..	..	11,552
1954	..	..	..	12,301
1955	..	..	..	14,298

The accompanying tables showing the number of carcasses inspected and condemned and the causes of the condemnation of meat emphasise the importance of this arduous daily task of meat inspection.



Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known) ....	2104	130	226	5324	6514	—
Number inspected ....	2104	130	226	5324	6514	—
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcases condemned ....	916	3	4	12	45	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ....	628	37	5	161	633	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and Cysticerci	30.3	30.7	4.0	3.2	10.4	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.						
Whole carcases condemned	10	1	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	97	11	3	—	101	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ....	5.1	9.2	1.7	—	1.5	—
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	35	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	35	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	1	—	—	—	—	—

ANALYSIS OF CONDEMNED

Cattle

	Whole Carcases	Heads and Tongues	Lungs	Livers	Pt. Livers	Hearts	Spleens	Whole Carcases
Tuberculosis	11	54	83	32			3	
Pneumonia Pericarditis Pleurisy, Peritonitis Septic Pneumonia and Tonsillitis	2	3	49	4	1	1	2	
Pyæmia, Pyrexia Gangrene, Septicæmia	5	1						7
Liver Fluke and other Parasitic conditions			14	253	246	2		
Cirrhosis, necrosis Degeneration				5	7			
Emaciation and oedema	3							3
Actinomycosis and Actinobacillosis		22	2	1				
Tumours, abscesses cystic conditions		10	9	120				
Septic metritis	1							
C. Bovis	1	24				12		
Icterus and uræmia	1							
Swine Fever (suspected)								
C. Angioma				3				
Immaturity								
Swine Erysipelas								
Moribund and Bruising								2
TOTALS	24	114	157	418	254	15	5	12

The following Carcase Meat was also condemned :—

BEEF

Bruising, Atrophy, or decomposition .....	743 lb.
Abscesses .....	18 lb.
Arthritis .....	—
Other Causes .....	—

## MEAT AND OFFAL

## Sheep

## Pigs

## Calves

Heads	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Whole Carcases	Heads	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Whole Carcases	Lungs	Livers	Heads
					99	2	1		1			3
	34	2	2	13		454	36	132	1	2		
1				6								
1	26	87					1					
		7					32				1	
				4					2			
					1	1	1					
1		5			8	4	5					
				1								
				5								
				9								
									1			
				4								
1				3								
4	60	101	2	45	108	461	76	132	5	2	1	3

MUTTON

84 lb.

24 lb.

—

—

PORK

296 lb.

37 lb.

344 lb.

—

VEAL

—

15lb.

6lb.

—



UN SOUND FOOD. —Foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption and diverted to other purposes or destroyed were :—

Meat and Offals	..	16 tons	9 cwts.	3 qrs.	9 lb.
Miscellaneous articles	..		15 cwts.	3 qrs.	4 lb.

In addition 1,318 tins of meat, fish, milk, vegetables, etc., were destroyed and 1,071 certificates of condemnation issued.

FOOD PREMISES :—As requested in Ministry of Health Circular 1/54 the number of food premises in the area classified by type of business is recorded below.

Hotels and Public Houses	..	..	63
Grocers and General Provisions	..	..	64
Confectioners	..	..	28
Butchers and pork butchers	..	..	20
Restaurants, cafés and canteens	..	..	30
Fish shops (wet, dry and fried)	..	..	18
Greengrocers	..	..	16

These figures should be regarded as approximate because in many cases different businesses are conducted from the same premises.

The number of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the manufacture or sale of ice cream was 54.

MILK :—Many samples of milk from Bury St. Edmunds were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the West Suffolk County Council, and, in order to avoid duplication of work, copies of the laboratory reports relating to these samples have been made available to this department.

Of 73 samples of pasteurised and T.T. pasteurised milk examined by the Phosphatase test only 1 sample failed to pass, but 2 of the 47 samples subjected to the Methylene Blue Reduction test did not reach the required standard, and 1 other sample failed to pass the Clot on Boiling test. The failure of 3 of these samples was believed to have been caused by blocked jets and insufficient heat in the detergent tank of a bottle washing machine. After these faults were remedied further tests proved to be satisfactory.

The efficiency of the cleansing of milk bottles was also checked by the periodic submission of bottles to the Public Health Laboratory for Colony Counts. Of the 42 bottles examined in this way 28 were considered to be satisfactory, 7 were fairly satisfactory and 7 were unsatisfactory.

Five samples of raw milk were submitted by members of this department for examination by biological methods. No evidence of Tuberculosis or of *Brucella abortus* was detected in any of these samples.



ICE CREAM :—In addition to the performance of routine inspections at premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, 30 samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge for examination by the Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

The results were as follows :—

Provisional Grade I	..	22 samples
Provisional Grade II	..	7 samples
Provisional Grade III	..	1 sample
Provisional Grade IV	..	Nil.

Investigation of the origin of the Grade III sample revealed that the method of storage caused overloading of the refrigerator. This common fault was corrected.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The number of inspections made by the staff of this department and of treatments by the Council's operator were as follows:—

Business and other premises	..	Inspections	538
” ” ” ”	..	Treatments	101
Private Dwellings	..	Inspections	2317
” ”	..	Treatments	324

In addition to the above, two maintenance treatments were carried out to the sewerage system of the town, and periodic inspections and treatments were made at the sewage farm, refuse destructor and refuse tips. Three major rat infestations were dealt with during the year — two being in dwelling houses and one on the Haberdens tip.

### DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

Throughout the year officers of this department continued to perform the duties concerned with the execution and enforcement of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950.

SWINE FEVER—FORM A : — Notices under the Swine Fever Order, 1938 were served on 6 occasions when reports were received of suspected cases of swine fever or of pigs being found dead. The disease was confirmed in 5 pigs, and 9 pigs were condemned in the slaughterhouses for suspected swine fever. These pigs had been received under licence.

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

## 1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	41	14	1	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	140	100	15	
(iii) Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	10	10	3	
Total	191	124	19	

## 2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found.	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ....	6	5		1	
Overcrowding (S.2) ....					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ....					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ....					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ....					
(a) Insufficient ....	5	4		2	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	12	10		2	
(c) Not separate for sexes ....	1				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ....	1	1			
TOTAL ....	26	21		5	

## OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	Section 110.			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	18					
The making of boxes wholly or partially of paper	9					
TOTAL ....	27					

## HOUSING.

The Ministry of Health no longer require details on housing matters to be included in the annual reports of Medical Officers of Health, but because so much of your officers' time is devoted to housing inspection some brief notes on this subject are recorded below :—

**HOUSING SURVEY :—**The preliminary survey of sub-standard houses, which was completed in 1955, revealed that some 525 houses were unfit for human habitation. The Council considered the problem and boldly resolved to deal with the matter over a period of 15 years. The programme proposed for the first 5 years involves the demolition of a total of 214 dwellings, 117 to be dealt with by individual demolition orders and 97 to be included in clearance areas. These proposals have since been approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

*Building Progress.* New housing accommodation provided during 1955 was as follows :—

## LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Completed in 1955.

47

Under Construction on  
31st December, 1955.

55

## PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

Completed in 1955.

55

Under Construction on  
31st December, 1955.

33

**ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING :—**Seven cases of statutory overcrowding were abated during the year but overcrowded conditions were known to exist at 7 other premises. The delay in dealing with these latter cases was mainly due to the shortage of low rented four bedroom houses.

**HOUSING ACT 1949 :—**During the year improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949 were authorised in 28 cases, but 4 of these applications were later withdrawn. In 13 cases, some of which were approved in 1954, the works of improvement were completed and the grants paid.



# INSPECTIONS. STATISTICAL RECORD.

(excluding visits shown elsewhere in Report)

Houses—defects	..	..	269
Houses—Survey and Housing Acts	..	..	1239
Housing Act, 1949 (improvement grants)	..	..	125
Houses—Certification	..	..	4
Houses—Re-visits	..	..	1037
Public Health Act, —Section 75	..	..	458
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	8
Rag Flock and other Fillings Act	..	..	7
Infectious Disease cases	..	..	90
New Buildings	..	..	2
Drainage Work	..	..	236
Shops Act	..	..	107
Bakehouses	..	..	31
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	34
Other Food Preparation	..	..	124
Wet Fish Shops	..	..	13
Butchers Shops	..	..	24
Markets	..	..	61
Slaughterhouses	..	..	679
Restaurants, Cafés, etc.	..	..	46
Schools	..	..	3
Ice Cream Vendors	..	..	35
Dairies and Milk Shops	..	..	17
Pets Act	..	..	6
Stables and Piggeries	..	..	24
Verminous or Insanitary Houses	..	..	19
Destructor and Tips	..	..	9
Milk, Ice Cream Samples	..	..	39
Water Samples	..	..	16
Interviews (with Owners), etc.	..	..	236
Petrol Installations	..	..	81
Petrol Tanks Tested	..	..	13
Diseases of Animals Act	..	..	61
Explosives Stores	..	..	49
Licensed Premises	..	..	32
Smoke Nuisances	..	..	10
Caravans	..	..	76
Overcrowding	..	..	10
Music and Dancing Licences	..	..	5
Miscellaneous	..	..	137
Ponds, Pools and Ditches	..	..	10
Metal Dealers	..	..	3
Total			5485

During the year 403 (309) complaints were received in the department about various matters, all of which were investigated and the appropriate action taken where necessary.









